

MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2023

8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD

Physician Assistant Board Meeting Was Held Via WebEx

1. Call to Order by President

President Armenta called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Staff called the roll. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Charles Alexander, PhD
Juan Armenta, Esq.
Jennifer Carlquist, PA-C
Sonya Earley, PA-C
Jed Grant, PA-C
Randy Hawkins, M.D.
Diego Inzunza, PA-C
Vasco Deon Kidd, PA-C

Staff Present: Rozana Khan, Executive Officer
Michael Kanotz, Attorney III
Karen Halbo, Regulatory Counsel, Attorney III
Kristy Voong, Assistant Executive Officer
Jasmine Dhillon, Legislative/Regulatory Specialist
Julie Caldwell, Lead Licensing Analyst
Christina Haydon, Enforcement Analyst
Armando Melendez, Complaint Analyst
Virginia Gerard, Probation Monitor
Ariel Gompers, Administrative Analyst

3. Consider Approval of November 7, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

M/ Vasco Deon Kidd S/ Jennifer Carlquist to:

Approve the November 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

| Member | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Recusal |
|--------------------|-----|----|---------|--------|---------|
| Charles Alexander | X | | | | |
| Juan Armenta | X | | | | |
| Jennifer Carlquist | X | | | | |
| Sonya Earley | X | | | | |
| Jed Grant | | | | X | |
| *Diego Inzunza | | | X | | |
| Vasco Deon Kidd | X | | | | |

*Please note that Mr. Inzunza was present but was unintentionally omitted from the rollcall vote. Therefore, his vote is being recorded as an abstention.

No public comment.

4. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

(Note: The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment section that is not included on this agenda, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda for a future meeting. [Government Code Sections 11125, 11125.7(a).])

No public comment.

5. President's Report

Mr. Armenta reported that it is with great sadness that the Board announce the loss of staff member, Aurora Morris. Ms. Morris was with the Board since March 2020 as an Office Technician. She was a valuable member of the Physician Assistant Board (PAB) team providing excellent customer service to licensees and to the public; her presence and warm smile will be missed. The Board sends heartfelt condolences to Ms. Morris' family.

Mr. Armenta shared that there has been some discussion about the potential physician assistant (PA) name change that might be advocated by the California Academy of PAs (CAPA). Mr. Armenta asked Ms. Earley what is the new iteration of the name that is being contemplated by CAPA to conform to get the name in some states, a movement towards a different name. Ms. Earley responded with Physician Associate.

Mr. Armenta reported that Ms. Earley and himself meet with Executive Officer Ms. Khan regularly, who updates them on any staffing issues or any operational issues that may come up so that the Board may bring them up in the report. However, it looks as though the Board hired an excellent Executive Officer as everything looks to be running smoothly.

Mr. Armenta reported a Senate appointment has been made for a seat on the Board. Deborah Snow, previously on the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispenser Board, will be joining PAB. Ms. Snow will be sworn in at the next Board meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Armenta congratulated Sonya Earley for completing her Doctorate. Dr. Earley thanked Mr. Armenta.

No public comment.

6. Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Armenta reported the following information:

A. Office Operations

The Board is managing ongoing telework for staff while continuing to balance office operations.

B. Personnel

On December 13, 2022, the Board welcomed back Ariel Gompers to the Board who filled the vacant Administrative Analyst position. On December 6, 2023, interviews were conducted to fill the vacant Licensing Analyst position. Once the Board receives the necessary clearance, a confirmation of employment will be made. Additionally, the Board advertised to fill the vacant Office Technician position which will provide technical and clerical support to the Enforcement and Licensing Programs.

C. Outreach

The Board has two outreach events scheduled for this calendar year. Staff is looking forward to attending the CAPA conference in Napa on February 25, 2023, and the annual CAPA conference during the Physician Assistant Week on October 5-8, 2023, in Anaheim. The Board is grateful for the opportunity provided by CAPA to attend these exceptional events.

The Board also has two licensing presentations scheduled for this calendar year which will be conducted by Lead Licensing Analyst Julie Caldwell. The first presentation took place on January 30, 2023, with physician assistant students at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. The second presentation is scheduled for February 23, 2023, for the physician assistant students at the University of the Pacific. Both presentations cover initial licensing requirements, license renewals, online resources, continuing education, etc.

Additionally, staff will be attending the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) 111th Annual Meeting on May 4-6, 2023, in Minneapolis, MN. The FSMB is a national, non-profit organization that represents the 70-state medical and osteopathic boards of the United States and its territories. Their mission is to serve as the voice for state medical boards, supporting them through education, assessment, research, and advocacy while providing services and initiatives that promote patient safety, quality healthcare and regulatory best practices. The FSMB is a recognized authority throughout the United States and internationally on issues related to medical licensure and discipline.

D. Strategic Planning

2023 is the Board's year to develop a new strategic plan. Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) SOLID Training Solutions (SOLID) has tentatively scheduled the strategic planning session with both Board members and staff at its May 1, 2023, meeting in Sacramento. SOLID is hopeful they will be able to meet this target date; however, there is a chance this will need to be delayed as their ability to begin this process is subject to finalization of the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) components, which will be outlined by Deputy Director Melissa Gear as part of the DCA updates.

E. Information Technology

Development of the instructional video to assist applicants with the licensure process is nearing completion. DCA Information Officer has started production of the video and should have it completed by the end of February.

The Board continues to utilize its subscriber alert system, social media accounts and website to maximize outreach, which serve as the primary communication tools for licensees and members of the public.

No public comment.

7. Board Activity Reports

A. Licensing

Licensing Population by Type Report as of January 20, 2023:

Total Licensing Population: 23,912
Current Licenses: 16,347
Current Inactive: 30
Current Temporary Family Support: 1
Total: 16,378

Summary of Licensing Activity Report for October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022:

Initial Applications received: 372
Licenses issued: 435
Licenses renewed: 1,763

Pending Application Workload Report as of January 20, 2023:

Ms. Caldwell stated that this report provides information on the average age the application sits on the desk and then the average age that is assigned to an individual. The Board does not consider an application submitted without payment as a completed application. The desk age captures when an individual submits the application and made the payment. The application age captures when the application is assigned to a specific staff member.

The color pie charts show the desk age and application age of 0-30 days, 31-60 days, 61-90 days and 91 plus days, but this does not mean it is taking the Board this many days to review everyone. Currently, the Board is under the 30-day window of having individuals apply and updated within 30 days. Ms. Caldwell noted that the red column [91 plus days] is not cause for alarm as it means that the applications have been reviewed but there is a delay in getting the requirements in the office. This could mean that the applicant applied too early and has not graduated and taken the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE); the applicant wanted to wait until their birth month to be licensed; they are waiting on verifications of other state licenses, certifications, or registrations; or delays of getting the results of the background check.

Licensing Performance Measures Report for October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022:

Ms. Caldwell stated that this report provides information on how long it takes the Board to review an application. With the previous departure of Ms. Harrington from the Board and various holidays and staffing shortages, the licensing desk was a little over the 30-day window. However, with the help of Ms. Voong, the Board is back to the 30-day goal.

Ms. Caldwell also report that the licensing unit has started to issue the Controlled Substance Education Course audit letters to the affected licensees. The Board is having an overall good response and is receiving the certificates to be added to the licensing account, so that they can be viewed on the BreZE website.

Mr. Armenta asked if Ms. Harrington's departure would account for the skewing of the Board's average desk age, Ms. Caldwell responded yes. Ms. Caldwell stated a personal goal was to try to keep it at about three weeks, this way when an individual applied and paid their fees, they could hear from the Board within three to four weeks. However, Ms. Harrington left the Board, and with vacation schedules, and a few holidays, the 30-day goal was not met for a short time.

B. Complaints

Mr. Melendez reported the following complaint activity for the period of October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022:

- Complaints Volume
 - Complaints received: 91
 - Convictions/Arrests Received: 8
 - Total Received: 99
 - Assigned to desk analyst (**may include cases received in previous quarters): 95
 - Pending at intake: 0
- Complaints and Investigations
 - Complaints referred for investigation: 13
 - Complaints and investigations closed: 86
 - Complaints pending at desk analyst: 296
 - Investigations pending at field: 69
 - Average age of pending investigation: 331 days
 - Investigations over 8 months old: 40

C. Discipline

Ms. Haydon reported the following discipline activity for the period of October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022:

- Suspensions
 - There were no suspensions
- Office of the Attorney General Transmittal
 - Cases initiated: 7
 - Cases pending: 47
 - Average age of pending cases: 341 days
- Formal Actions Filed/Withdrawn/Dismissed
 - Accusations filed: 5
- Administrative Outcomes/Final Order
 - Revocation: 3

- Surrender: 1
- Petition for Termination of Probation Granted: 1
- Citation and Fine
 - Resolved/Closed: 1
 - Fines Received: \$500

D. Probation

Ms. Gerard reported the following probation activity for the period of October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022:

- Voluntary Surrender: 1
- Completed Probation: 2
- Probation Terminated: 1
- Total Probationers: 41

E. Diversion

Ms. Gerard reported the following activity for the Diversion Program for the period of October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022:

- Total Active Participants: 2

Mr. Armenta asked Ms. Gerard for an update on how she has been received in her visits, as well as telephone checks and other correspondences. Ms. Gerard stated that she has generally been well received. When completing the intake with new probationers, Ms. Gerard has noticed that some may not be taking their probation as seriously, but that may also be their personality. Mr. Armenta asks Ms. Gerard to please elaborate on what she means when she says some probationers do not seem to take their probation seriously. Ms. Gerard responded that she believes that they feel as though their probation is an inconvenience or that they were put on probation over a misunderstanding.

Mr. Armenta asked if Ms. Gerard perceives any issues continuing to enforce the enforcement of the probation terms. Ms. Gerard responded that the enforcement comes down to what the Board's attorneys and the Board are willing to do. Ms. Gerard stated that she can only advise the probationers that they are not in compliance and write that up.

Dr. Hawkins asked what the nature of the licensee was who surrendered their license. Ms. Gerard responded that the probationer was tolling, and the Board has a standard condition that if a probationer tolls for two years it is considered a violation as the Board does not want probationers sitting in the drawer indefinitely. At this juncture, the Board will send the probationer a letter stating that the Board will file a petition to revoke their probation, or the probationer can volunteer to surrender, and the Board can accept.

No public comment.

8. Department of Consumer Affairs – Director's Update

Melissa Gear, Deputy Director from Board and Bureau Relations (BBR) at DCA thanked the Board for its time and provided the following department updates.

A. New Strategic Plan and Logo

DCA released its new five-year Strategic Plan in November and officially transitioned to a new logo at the start of the new year. The new logo will be implemented gradually throughout this year. Existing items with the previous DCA logo are still valid during the transition and do not need to be replaced or updated. DCA Board and Bureau leadership have been given information and resources to help with the new logo implementation. A centralized website is also available at www.dca.ca.gov/logo. The new plan and logo represent the Department's next chapter and future, with consumer protection continuing to guide DCA's mission and priorities. DCA holds itself to a high standard as a licensing entity, regulator, educator, and service provider. Additionally, the plan incorporates DCA's strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as DCA's shared commitment to each consumer. The new logo not only displays California's official colors, but it also visually represents DCA's vision of protecting California consumers. The shield symbolizes a strong and long-standing protection mandate, the state symbolizes all 40 million Californians DCA has pledged and is honored to serve. The star symbolizes consumer protection as the true guiding principle, its own North Star.

B. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee

Ms. Gear reported that at the end of last year DCA established its first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee (DEI Committee) to guide the Department's equity strategy, initiatives, and action plans. Comprised of DCA Board and Bureau leadership, the DEI Committee held its second meeting on January 27, 2023, and established the Committee's charter to discuss changes to the strategic planning process and development of DEI fact sheet. Additional resources will be forthcoming that the boards will be able to use and incorporate into their strategic plans and communications. The Committee will concentrate on three key areas; workforce, to find and keep diverse talent; workplace, actively educate leaders and employees to raise awareness and foster an inclusive culture; and marketplace, to be sensitive to the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of consumers, applicants, and licenses.

C. Strategic Planning

The Department's DEI Steering Committee is working to implement the Governor's executive order issued in September of last year, which directs state departments to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to their strategic plans. DCA's SOLID team is working with DEI Steering Committee to develop DEI related questions for inclusions and environmental scan surveys and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis to help guide the boards and bureaus in developing DEI related goals and objectives as part of their strategic plans. Sample DEI objectives will also be provided to further assist the boards and bureaus. Additionally, DCA is developing video messages from leaders to explain their perspective on DEI and how it relates to the board's role as regulators and policy makers. Once these new DEI components have been finalized and approved, SOLID will begin working with DCA's boards and bureaus on the development of new strategic plans or the updating of existing strategic plans. DCA will keep the Executive Officer updated as more information becomes available.

D. Board Member Trainings

Ms. Gear stated now is a great time to review all the necessary board member training and submit certificates of completion to the Executive Officer and DCA at memberreations@dca.ca.gov. There are two DCA wide mandatory trainings for 2023; this includes the Sexual Harassment Prevention training and the Information Security Awareness training. All DCA employees and appointees, including board members will need to complete the Sexual Harassment Prevention training this year. This training is required every odd numbered year and is approximately two hours. In addition, if staff is assigned to an DCA email, staff are required to complete the Information Security Awareness Fundamentals 2023 training. Information Security Awareness training addresses everyone's role in protecting DCA data and information. The training is online and required every year. Both the Sexual Harassment Prevention training and Information Security Awareness training are available in the Department's Learning Management System (LMS). Both trainings can be accessed online at any time and the next few weeks information will be sent out via email on how to access these trainings.

Board members must complete the Board Member Orientation Training (BMOT) within the first year of appointment or reappointment; Ethics training within six months of appointment, and every two years thereafter; and Defensive Driver training within the first year and every four years. These trainings are offered multiple times a year in a variety of formats. For more information, a mandatory training page has been created to help members identify, access, and track specified trainings. The page includes direct links to mandatory trainings as well as pertinent information and policies specific to those training courses. The page is available via the DCA Board Member Resource Center page.

Ms. Gear listed upcoming trainings which includes, the President and Vice President training on February 22, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This virtual two-hour training will outline the role of the board president, including understanding the scope of the role managing board members and performing administrative duties. Please sign up now using LMS.

Lastly, the BMOT will be held on March 22, 2023. BMOT will be offered as a live virtual day of training and possibly in person on June 20 and October 10, 2023. More information will be available soon. Board members can sign up using LMS.

E. COVID-19 Update

The COVID-19 State of Emergency and associated Executive Orders will end on February 28, 2023, and the remaining active waivers the DCA issued under the authority of the state of emergency and executive orders will also expire.

F. Form 700

Reminder to file the annual Form 700 by March 15, 2023. Board and committee members are required to file a statement of economic interest or Form 700 within 30 days of their appointment annually and within 30 days of leaving office. This year's annual filing period covers the prior calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2022. The official deadline for filing is April 1, 2023. To ensure compliance, DCA requested that Form 700 filers complete the e-filing by March 15, 2023. Staff should have recently received an email from the NetFile with instructions on how to file the annual Form 700.

DCA and the BBR team look forward to working with and assisting the Board throughout this new year. DCA is here to support staff and the important work that is completed. Ms. Gear welcomed any questions from the Board and took a moment to offer condolences to the family and friends of Aurora Morris on behalf of herself and the Executive Office team.

Dr. Kidd offered his condolences and sympathies for Ms. Morris' family. Dr. Kidd thanked Ms. Gear for her report and explained that he had not received an annual Form 700 link and asked if it will be emailed out soon. Dr. Kidd also asked if the information from the previous year would repopulate into the Form 700. Ms. Gear responded that she would check to see why Dr. Kidd has not received his link. Ms. Gear also stated that she would have to get back to Dr. Kidd on whether the form is prepopulated with the individual's previous information or if one must start over.

Mr. Armenta offered that when he completed the Form 700, his previous information was populated, and he made changes as needed.

Dr. Alexander offered his condolences to Ms. Morris' family as well. Dr. Alexander stated that he completed a Sexual Harassment Prevention training previously with the University of California and asks if he could share the certificate to see if this training would fulfill the requirement. Ms. Gear responded that if the training falls within the appropriate time frame, then it should be within compliance. Ms. Gear asked Dr. Alexander to share the certificate with DCA and staff will get back to him to let him know if he is within compliance.

No public comment.

9. Budget Update

Suzanne Balkis, DCA Budget Analyst, thanked the Board and the Executive staff for allowing her to present and she offered her condolences to Ms. Morris' family and Board staff. Ms. Balkis reported that on January 10, 2023, the Governor's budget was released, which provided updated budget numbers for the Board. This includes incremental adjustment to the current year (CY) 2022-23 and to the based budget for the budget year (BY) 2023-24. Ms. Balkis shared that she will not be including expenditures within her presentation as the Board will be projecting a full expenditure and the Budget Office will continue to monitor this expenditure and report back to the Board with monthly expenditure projection report as future fiscal months close.

Fund Condition Report

The fund condition gives the Board a full year view of the post fund. For the 2021-22 actuals the Board has a beginning balance \$4.8 million, with the prior year (PY) adjustment of about \$197,000, giving the Board an adjusted beginning balance of about \$5 million. The Board collected approximately \$2.5 million in revenue and transfer the general fund (AB 84) of negative \$88,000, giving the Board a total expenditure of \$2.5 million. This gives the Board a fund balance of about \$4.5 million or 16.7 months in reserve.

For the Board's CY 2022-23, which includes the FM5 projections, these projections are based on the Governor's budget. The Board has a beginning balance of about

\$4.5 million and has a projected estimate of \$2.7 million in revenue, and \$3.2 million in total projected for FM5. The Board currently has a fund balance of about \$4 million, which gives the Board about 14.6 months in reserve.

For BY 2023-24 and BY 2024-25 plus one, these projections are based on the current year's Governor's budget except for the income from surplus, which are formula driven. BY and BY plus one are realized. One of the main factors that goes into the fund condition is that the Board adds a 3% ongoing increase for expenditures that are due to general salary increase, employee compensation and retirement rate adjustments.

Mr. Armenta expressed his concern regarding the continuing decline of the Board's months in reserve and asked Ms. Balkis to remind him what the healthy number that the Board needs to be at. Ms. Balkis replied that the Board should be between six months at the minimum and 24 months maximum. The Budget team is looking at the BY plus one, meaning the Board is doing full expenditures. When the Budget team looks at the months in reserve, it is assumed that the Board will use all of their appropriation; this is why there is this constant change as there is also the 3% increase.

Mr. Armenta commented that as the rate of inflation continues to rise, then the Board is at a risk of this downward trend in reserves to continue to get closer to six months than the 24 months. Mr. Armenta asked his fellow Board members and staff to start looking at how the Board can change that.

Mr. Armenta asked if it has been a while since there has been a fee increase for the Board's license renewals. Ms. Khan responded that the Board has not had a fee increase for some time and the Board plans on looking into that for FY 2025-26.

Ms. Balkis stated that this is an issue that the Board can investigate earlier than FY 2025-26 as this time frame was based on the fund condition.

Mr. Armenta asked Ms. Balkis to prepare projections for the next board meeting.

No public comment.

10. Report on Medical Board of California Activities

Dr. Hawkins, Vice President of the Medical Board of California (MBC), reported the MBC met in person on December 1 and 2, 2022. The next meeting will be virtual on February 9 and 10, 2023. The agenda was finalized and can be viewed at www.mbc.ca.gov.

MBC is preparing their Sunset review later this year. Sometime in the next few months there are several important issues, but most importantly there's a need for the Legislature to increase fees for licensees to improve the MBC's balance sheet. The MBC has not had a fee increase in 15 years or more and has had issues getting an increase approved. There is also a report of an outstanding Enforcement Monitor for MBC requested by the DCA that is still pending.

Mr. Armenta asked Dr. Hawkins where this resistance is coming from. Dr. Hawkins stated that he believes that certain entities have a relationship with the Legislature.

For example, the MBC asked for an increase of a substantial amount but received an insignificant increase amount of \$80, which did not help with the budget. Dr. Hawkins believes there are physician entities that possess an influence on the Legislature.

Mr. Armenta asked how big of an increase the MBC was asking for. Dr. Hawkins responded that the MBC was requesting about a doubling in every two years, this would bring the fee from about \$800 to \$1,600. This request was due to MBC not having a fee increase in over 15 years, except that \$80 increase last year. The MBC is now required to get a loan to help manage the significant financial situation and needs the Legislature to assist the board so that it can continue to meet its mission of protecting the public.

No public comment.

11. Regulations – Update on Pending Regulatory Packages

Ms. Dhillon provided the updates for the regulatory packages.

1. 16 CCR 1399.514, 1399.615 – SB 697: Renewal of License and Continuing Medical Education Required

Staff is currently working on initial documents to submit for initial review this calendar year.

2. 16 CCR 1399.502, 1399.540, 1399.541, 1399.545 – SB 697: SB 697 Implementation

Staff is finalizing initial documents with regulations counsel and the Budget Office to submit for initial review within the next month.

3. 16 CCR 1399.506, 1399.507, 1399.511, 1399.546 – SB 697: Application, Exam Scores, Addresses, & Recordkeeping

Agency approved this package on December 12, 2022, and it was filed with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on December 20, 2022. Regulations Counsel Karen Halbo and Ms. Dhillon are working with OAL staff to make the requested changes and to finalize the package. The Board withdrew the package, and the Board will be issuing a modification of text to be published for a 15-day comment period. The Board will have the opportunity to vote and adopt this new text at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Grant asked what the changes were made to this package. Ms. Dhillon responded that there were discussions with the OAL attorney that was assigned to this package and there were some concerns with the language regarding the mailing address and specifying that the address of record that licensees need to provide does not have to include a home address, because that is not required by statute. That change would also better address the public comment that was received for that package where someone had commented and said that the language needs to be clearer as to whether a home address was required or not. The other main concern was the address of record and specifying that the address of record was published on the DCA license search website for licensees and not applicants. The

Board only publishes the address of record after an applicant is issued a valid license, however this is something that the Board is asked to clarify within the language.

Mr. Grant expressed his concerns by asking if this will restart the process. Ms. Dhillon assured Mr. Grant that it does not restart the process. The Board submitted the notice of the regulation on September 9, 2022, and from that period the Board was given a year to finalize it with OAL. The Board then had to withdraw the package and will be sending out a 15-day modification of text where the public will be able to comment. From there, the Board can address any concerns that the public might have and if there are any changes to the text that need to be made, the Board will make those changes. The Board has until that September deadline to finalize this package, giving the Board an ample amount of time. The Board will have the opportunity to make any comments, or if the Board can address any concerns as well at the next meeting.

4. 16 CCR 1399.515 – AB 2461: Retired Status to Include Fingerprint Requirement

This package is on hold for 2023 until the above packages are completed.

5. 16 CCR 1399.523 – SB 1441: Implement Uniform Standards Related to Substance Abusing Licensees and Update of Disciplinary Guidelines

This package is also on hold for 2023 until the above packages are completed.

6. 16 CCR 1399.XX – AB 107: Military Applicant Temporary Licensure

Staff is currently working on creating initial documents with regulations counsel and the Budget Office to submit for initial review this calendar year.

Mr. Armenta asked to confirm with Ms. Dhillon that there is not much for the Board to do in terms of changing the Board position on any of the regulatory packages, Ms. Dhillon affirmed and stated that this is correct.

No public comment.

12. Education/Workforce Development Advisory Committee: Update on Physician Assistant Education Programs and Applicants in California

Dr. Alexander thanked Mr. Grant for his assistance within this report as they transitioned this reporting to Dr. Alexander, and for the many lessons that Mr. Grant has shared.

Dr. Alexander reported that there are 23 PA programs in California, a total of 300 across the nation. Of these 23, three are in the developmental phase. The majority are in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas, with the Bay Area following behind, two in the Central Valley and two in the Central Coast. The average number of students is about 41 and there is a total estimated capacity of 1,048 once all these developing programs are online.

Dr. Alexander stated that he works at a university and he sees that the PA

profession is growing in popularity among undergraduates and he believes in some respect that this is a great thing because the world needs more care providers given what is going on in the health professions today.

Mr. Grant stated that the biggest hurdle to growth of programs in California is clinical sites, but it is increasingly competitive with multiple applicants for every available seat.

Dr. Hawkins inquired about where individuals are practicing within the underserved areas, as this could help give the Board an idea of how to assist PAs on where to apply and get loan repayment programs. Mr. Grant replied that the Education and Workforce Development Committee looks more into the profession. There are many loan repayment programs that assist individuals who practice in rural and underserved areas; however, the committee has not investigated this very much. The focus of the committee are individuals coming in, not where they practice after they graduate. Although, if this is something that the Board wants, the committee can shift its focus.

Dr. Hawkins shared that he has a contact who may have some of the information for the Board regarding the loan repayment programs and the Board would not need to duplicate. But the numbers that are coming out is a reasonable question to ask.

Mr. Grant stated that perhaps another committee can be formed to work on this project, or if the Board wants the current committee to change their focus from education and development of workforce coming in, versus distribution of workforce on the back end.

Dr. Kidd asked if the committee could report on the racial and ethnic mix of applicants across the programs and the average cost of the PA programs. Dr. Alexander responded that some universities report the diversity of their classes while others do not, so reporting on diversity can be difficult. The cost for PA education is going up and he stated that he would imagine that some of these new programs are going to be somewhat expensive. Even the University of California, San Diego, which is a public university, still require the students to pay professional fees.

Mr. Grant agreed with Dr. Alexander on that some PA programs will report on diversity while others do not, making these numbers hard to come by. However, if the Board would like to see this information on this report, the committee can add cost and diversity from the information that the committee is able to gather. The Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) website has some information on there, and they survey each program every year for that information. This information can be found in their matriculate students survey, or the recently renamed "Program Report." However, the Board should keep in mind that this is all voluntary reporting. The Board is aware that the PA profession is less diverse than the Board would like it to be. In terms of applicants to the profession there are high numbers of white females. Diversity has been a goal and the PAEA has been really working on this. As an admissions director for a PA program, a lot is done to try and have a more diverse applicant pool, as well as more diverse students that are selected for admission to the program. In terms of cost, the average program is about \$100,000. It varies widely from \$70,000 all the way up to over \$200,000 in terms of cost, public versus private. California State University, Monterey Bay did recently have an increase in their tuition and fees for their program and that puts it in

the \$100,000 to \$120,000 range for the total cost of the program. As Dr. Alexander previously mentioned that the cost can be hard to determine due to it being reported in odd ways, but the committee can usually get the information from the program's website or the PAEA website.

Mr. Armenta asked Ms. Khan if the license fee increase requires administrative or legislative approval. Ms. Khan responded that it would require legislative approval. Ms. Khan stated that she was informed that DCA will be looking at all the boards and bureaus that will need a fee increase and they will be submitting a collective request to the Legislature for FY 2025-26.

Mr. Armenta stated as the Board can see that there is legislative momentum towards diversity and inclusion in policy consideration, it would be wise for the Board to keep data on diversity within the Education/Workforce Development Advisory Committee report. This way if the question ever comes up in a discussion with the Legislature, the Board can show that it had put those policy goals in the Board's studies and that is something the Board is trying to achieve.

Dr. Alexander stated that he is curious about this information as well and would be happy to add it to the report. Mr. Grant added that he is a member of the PAEA and they can work together to piece that information into the report.

No public comment.

13. Report by the Legislative Committee; Legislative Update

Ms. Dhillon reported that there have not been any bills that she has come across that directly impact the Board. However, the tentative legislative calendar does say that February 17, 2023, is the last day for bills to be introduced, giving the Board a little less than two weeks until that deadline. Ms. Dhillon stated that she is anticipating there should be at least a few bills that she should come across before then that will impact the Board. Any bills that have been introduced could possibly be amended in the future that pertain to the Board. As of right now there aren't any bills that impact the Board; however, for the next board meeting, Ms. Dhillon believes that the Board should see some that will impact the Board and an update will be given at the next Board meeting.

No public comment.

14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

None listed.

No public comment.

15. CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Section 11126(c)(3) of the Government Code, the Board will deliberate and take action on disciplinary matters.

16. Adjournment

Adjournment will immediately follow the closed session and there will be no other items of business discussed.

Minutes do not reflect the order in which agenda items were presented at the Board meeting.